

LITTORELLA AMERICANA IN QUEBEC.—I have been very much interested in the note of Dr. Muenscher of Cornell University concerning *Littorella americana* Fernald.<sup>1</sup>

As stated in the note, the distribution of this member of the family *Plantaginaceae* is: Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Maine, Vermont, and Minnesota. We are glad to add Quebec to this list. Macoun's *Catalogue* recorded it (as *L. lacustris*) from the north end of Lake Champlain, collected by Pringle. Prof. Marie-Victorin of the University of Montreal collected the tiny plant at Natashkwan (North Shore of the St Lawrence River). Harold St. John, who studied the Flora of this region didn't mention it, in his publication.<sup>2</sup> It has also been found in Lac Ste. Anne, Co. Gaspé (*Victorin*).

Last summer, whilst botanizing along the Richelieu River, I observed that this aquatic plant was common at several points on the shores of this river, such as Ste Therese Island, near St Jean. Prof. Marie-Victorin found it also on the same river, at the place named "Sabrevois." These stations are on the river which flows from Lake Champlain, whence Pringle had specimens.

The North American area is therefore: Newfoundland, Quebec, New Brunswick,<sup>3</sup> Nova Scotia, Ontario, Maine, Vermont, New York, Wisconsin and Minnesota.—MARCEL RAYMOND, College de Saint Jean, Québec, Canada.

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ECONOMIC PLANTS.—The story goes that Asa Gray, pestered by the half-intelligent and wholly practical "man on the street" with the question, "Now, what is the value of botany, anyway?", regularly replied "Why, it earns my bread and butter," or words to the same effect. Just at the present epoch the same answer cannot always be truthfully given, but, at least, the wholly impractical student of botany can, if he will, find plenty of practical answers. For instance, refer him to Chapter IX, on Food Products: Cereals and Allied Crops, in Professor Stanford's new book<sup>4</sup> and to the first page of the chapter: "Foods are either PLANT PRODUCTS or ANIMAL PRODUCTS; if the latter, they are still products of plant metabolism taken at second or at *n*th hand." What would the objector to botany do for food without plants and their products? In a brief note like this only the general impression can be recorded. The book is beautifully printed and well illustrated, full of organized matter of general interest, the chapters dealing, among other subjects, with forest products,

<sup>1</sup> RHODORA, May, 1934.

<sup>2</sup> Victoria Museum. A Botanical Exploration of the North Shore of St. Lawrence, including a list of the Vascular Plants. H. St John.

<sup>3</sup> Macoun, Cat. Can. Pl. i. 575.

<sup>4</sup> ECONOMIC PLANTS by Ernest Elwood Stanford. xxiii + 571 pages, 376 illustrations. D. Appleton-Century Co., New York and London, 1934. (The Century Biological Series) \$4.50